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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
10.00 am until 2.00 pm

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NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2024

WEEKLY DIARY

Playgroup meets every day during school term time

Sunday 3 March	10.15 am 3.00-5.00 pm	Rob Newton Steward: Heather Coffee: Sue and Adrian Karate in rear Coffee Lounge
Monday 4 March	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 2.00 pm 6.30 – 9.00 pm 7.30 pm	Playgroup New Horizons 1 st Barrow upon Soar Guides Sharing Scripture Bible Study
Tuesday 5 March	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 4.30 – 7.30 pm	Playgroup Cosmic Theatre School
Wednesday 6 March	8.45 am – 1.00 pm 7.30 pm 5.00 – 7.30 pm	Playgroup Ladies Circle in the rear Coffee Bar Playgroup Training Session in the Worship area
Thursday 7 March	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 6.30 – 9.30 pm	Playgroup BATS
Friday 8 March	8.45 – 4.00 pm 12.30 pm	Playgroup Lent lunches served at Holy Trinity Rooms Proceeds in aid of BACA
Saturday 9 March	2.00 – 3.00 pm 6.00 – 7.15 pm	Motion Dance Karate

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Mothering Sunday Sunday 10 March	10.15 am	Local Arrangement Steward: Kate Coffee: Mike and Pauline
Sunday 17 March	10.15 am	Circuit Service at Quorn
Palm Sunday Sunday 24 March	10.15 am	Rev Karen Beecham Steward: Sandra Coffee:
Good Friday 29 March	12.00 pm	Churches Together Good Friday Service Steward: Sandra Followed by lunch
Easter Sunday Sunday 31 March	9.00 am 10.15 am	Communion Breakfast with Rev Sandra Marshall Steward: Natalie Local Arrangement Steward: Natalie Coffee:
Sunday 7 April	10.15 am	Karen Wormald
Sunday 14 April	10.15 am	Colin Lamb
Sunday 21 April	10.15 am	Rev Martin Swan
Sunday 28 April	10.15 am	Rev Sandra Marshall – Holy Communion We are joined by East Leake, Sileby and Wymeswold Followed by our Annual Meeting and Church Council Meeting

BIBLE READINGS FOR SUNDAY:

Sorry we have not received this information yet.

REV SANDRA WRITES:

Some of you might be aware that we are struggling to find new stewards at Barrow upon Soar. Last night at the Church Council meeting we discussed a way forward. We must have stewards or the church is unable to function and the final result of not being able to find stewards is sadly that we will have to close. I'm sure none of you wish that to happen and neither did those at the meeting.

We discussed a possible way forward: to split the stewards into vestry stewards and leadership stewards. A vestry steward need not be a church member and is solely responsible for making sure everything is in place for worship to happen. The tasks include contacting the preacher, contacting the readers with the readings for Sunday, opening up in good time, checking that all is in place – is the Bible open, the candle present is there fresh water in the pulpit, is the prayer book out, are there names in it, are the mics available, is the collection plate out, tidying up afterwards, counting the collection and turning out lights and locking up.

This role is not onerous or difficult – if you are able to be on the coffee rota then you have the skills to go on a vestry stewards rota. If we could get a good number of volunteers then it might mean only being on Sunday duty once a month or even less.

Please pray and ask yourself if God might be calling you to be a vestry steward. Feel free to speak to me or any of the existing stewards about the role. It would be fantastic if we could get at least 8 volunteers. Is God speaking to you?

God bless, Sandra

TABLETOP SALE

Are you having a Spring clear out? We are having a Tabletop Sale on Saturday 23 March from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm – table must be pre-booked (£10 each) and if anyone would like a table then please see Natalie or Janet.

NEWS OF THE FOODBANK COLLECTIONS

As you will be aware, we have been collecting food for the Charnwood Food Hub for some time. Recently the items have dwindled, partly because some people are now donating money which we understand is more flexible for the organisers. Maybe some have found other places where they can leave their donations. In view of this it does not seem worth making one or two-weekly trips, so these will end on 1st March. We hope to continue passing on donations for drinks and refreshments at Mini-Mart and on Sunday mornings. This money and any other personal donations will be passed to the treasurer who will send it from the Church account at appropriate times.

We thank you for the gifts you have given up to now, and hope that you will continue if you can, we believe that it is most appreciated - Sue and Adrian

ANNUAL REPORT

It will soon be time for the Annual Report – could Group Leaders please start thinking about this and have their report submitted by Sunday 24th March please. If anyone else has an article that they would like included please let me know. Many thanks to those who have already submitted their reports! Janet

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Loving God who created all that lives, from the tiniest amoeba to the greatest of whales, which fill us with wonder and awe. We recognise your amazing ability to create out of what seems to be an impossibility, yet we believe that all things are possible with you and we are grateful for your loving care. Creator God, we believe that you created us, and that in each of us is something of a seed, an essence from you, a potential to grow and to influence others. May our seed have positive conditions for growth and become an influence for good in the world, helping to care for people in need and preserving life in all its forms.

Hilary Evans, former President, Methodist Women in Britain, 2021/2022

NEWS FROM THE CIRCUIT:

Dear Colleagues

Paul Spray, our Synod Secretary and Chair of the World Mission Fund Grants Committee has asked for circuits to be aware of the World Mission Fund appeal for Gaza. Please see information about the appeal by clicking on the following link:

https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/israel-palestine/gaza-appeal/?utm_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14360571_Methodist%20News%2022%2F02%2F24&dm_i=BVI,8JSOR,4XKPZ3,ZDZVD,1

Paul explained that it has been in The Methodist News this week that the World Mission Fund is making an appeal for Gaza specifically to our Methodist people. The Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem has partner organisations that are offering relief, and it seemed important to show specifically Methodist support.

The President and Vice President have issued a statement, ending "In prayer we stand alongside all those in the region whose heart breaks with ours as we witness the unfathomable suffering. With the psalmist we pray: *You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.* (Psalm 40:17) It would be wonderful if you would kindly spread news of the appeal to the churches in your circuit.

With all good wishes - Claire

Claire Handley
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